

Service menu

- [Press](#)
- [Career](#)
- [Contact](#)

EN

language dropdown

- [DA](#)
- [FI](#)
- [IS](#)
- [SV](#)
- [NO](#)

Main navigation

- [Nordic Council of Ministers](#)
- [Nordic Council](#)

Mega menu

EN

language dropdown

- [DA](#)
- [FI](#)
- [IS](#)
- [SV](#)
- [NO](#)

[Nordic Council of Ministers](#)

- [News from the Nordic Council of Ministers](#)
  - [Our Vision 2030](#)
    - [Action plan for Vision 2030](#)
  - [The Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers](#)
    - [Presidency programme for the Nordic Council of Ministers 2024](#)
  - [Organisation](#)
    - [The Secretary General](#)
    - [Secretariat](#)
    - [Governing documents](#)
  - [The Nordic Councils of Ministers](#)
    - [Ministers for Co-operation](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for Labour](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for Sustainable Growth](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for Digitalisation](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for Fisheries, Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for Justice Affairs](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for Culture](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for Gender Equality and LGBTI](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for the Environment and Climate](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for Health and Social Affairs](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for Education and Research](#)
    - [Nordic Council of Ministers for Finance](#)
    - [Meetings and protocols](#)
  - [Institutions](#)
    - [Nordic Culture Point](#)
    - [Nordic House in Reykjavik](#)
    - [Nordic House in the Faroe Islands](#)

- [The Nordic Institute in Greenland](#)
- [Nordic Institute on Åland](#)
- [Nordic Welfare Centre](#)
- [NordForsk](#)
- [NordGen](#)
- [Nordic Innovation](#)
- [Nordic Energy Research](#)
- [Nordregio](#)
- [The Nordic Institute for Advanced Training in Occupational Health](#)

#### [About the Nordic Council of Ministers](#)

- [History of the Nordic Council of Ministers](#)
- [Budget](#)

#### [Nordic Council](#)

- [News from the Nordic Council](#)

#### [Parliamentary co-operation](#)

- [Nordic Council cases](#)
- [Nordic Council's international co-operation](#)

#### [The Presidency of the Nordic Council](#)

- [Presidency programme for the Nordic Council 2024](#)

#### [Organisation](#)

- [Secretary General](#)
- [Secretariat](#)
- [Governing documents](#)

#### [Nordic Council committees and members](#)

- [All members](#)
- [The Presidium](#)
- [Committee for Knowledge and Culture in the Nordic Region](#)
- [Committee for a Sustainable Nordic Region](#)
- [Committee for Growth and Development in the Nordic Region](#)
- [Committee for Welfare in the Nordic Region](#)
- [Control Committee](#)
- [Election Committee](#)

#### [Sessions and meetings](#)

- [Protocols and upcoming meetings](#)
- [2024 Session](#)
- [2024 Theme Session](#)
- [Past sessions](#)

#### [About the Nordic Council](#)

- [The history of the Nordic Council](#)
- [Annual report](#)

#### [News](#)

- [All news](#)
- [Events](#)

#### [Current initiatives](#)

- [Nordic and Baltic Democracy Festivals 2024](#)

#### [Press](#)

- [Nordic image bank](#)
- [Career](#)

#### [Knowledge and services](#)

- [Living, working and studying in the Nordic Region](#)

#### [Publications](#)

- [Release a publication](#)

#### [Facts and statistics](#)

- [Facts about the Nordic Region](#)
- [Nordic statistics](#)

#### [Funding opportunities](#)

- [About funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers](#)
- [Public procurements](#)
- [Border database](#)

[About the Nordic co-operation](#)

- [The history of Nordic co-operation](#)

[Nordic Council prizes](#)

- [Environment Prize](#)
- [Children and Young People's Literature Prize](#)
- [Literature Prize](#)
- [Film Prize](#)
- [Music Prize](#)

[Policy areas](#)

- [Environment and climate](#)
- [Culture](#)
- [Legislation and Justice](#)
- [Sustainable development](#)
- [Digitalisation and innovation](#)
- [Children and young people](#)
- [See all policy areas](#)

## Service menu

- [Press](#)
- [Career](#)
- [Contact](#)

Search

Search

Menu

## Breadcrumb

1. [Home](#)
2. [Home](#)

## About the Nordic Council

Overblik over Plenum, Stortinget, Nordisk Råds Session 2018

Photographer

Johannes Jansson

[Mail](#) [Facebook](#) [Linkedin](#) [Twitter](#)

The members of the Nordic Council are driven, first and foremost, by the desire to make the Nordic Region one in which people want to live and work. This is also the primary objective of the ideas and proposals for co-operation put to the Council.

The Nordic Council has 87 elected members. Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden have 20 members each. Two of the Danish members are from the Faroe Islands and two of the Finnish members come from Åland. Iceland has seven members.

Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden were founder members of the Nordic Council when it was formed in 1952. Finland joined in 1955, the Faroe Islands and Åland in 1970 and Greenland in 1984. The Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland have exerted greater influence on Nordic co-operation since the Åland Document was adopted by the ministers for Nordic co-operation in Mariehamn, Åland, on 5 September 2007.

[The Åland Document](#)

## Members, Sessions and the Presidency

The Nordic Council is made up of members of the national parliaments nominated by their party groups. There are no direct elections.

The Nordic Council, which is run by the Presidium, comes together for two annual meetings – the Ordinary Session and the Theme Session, at which the members make decisions on issues that they call on the Nordic governments to implement.

The President, Vice-President, and members of the Presidium for the forthcoming year are elected at the Ordinary Session every autumn. The Presidency alternates between the countries. The country holding the Presidency of the Nordic Council hosts the Ordinary Session. The Theme Session is held every spring in the country holding the Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

[The Presidency](#)

[The Presidium of the Nordic Council](#)

[Sessions to the Nordic Council](#)

## Committees

The ongoing political work of the Nordic Council is done by committees and party groups.

The Nordic Council is served by a Secretariat that shares premises in Copenhagen with the Secretariat to the Nordic Council of Ministers. There is also a national secretariat in each of the Nordic parliaments.

[About the Nordic Council committees](#)

[About the Nordic Council party groups](#)

[National delegations](#)

## The Secretary General

The interparliamentary Nordic Council is headed by the Secretary General, assisted by the Secretariat in Copenhagen. The current Secretary General is Kristina Háfoss, the Faroe Islands.

The Secretary General and Secretariat prepare the business processed by the Nordic Council.

The Secretary General submits reports to the Nordic Council's executive body, the Presidium and draws up the agenda for Presidium meetings along with the President of the Nordic Council.

The Secretary General and the President also prepare agenda items on which decisions are to be made.

For the items on the agenda not requiring decisions, the Secretary General consults the Secretariat, which consists of the heads of the secretariats of the national delegations and the party group secretaries.

The Presidium may delegate decision-making on certain issues to the Secretary General.

[See Kristina Háfoss' CV](#)

Former secretary generals

2013–2021 Britt Bohlin, Sweden

2007–2013 Jan-Erik Enestam, Finland

1999–2007 Frida Nokken, Norway

1996–1999 Berglind Ásgeirsdóttir, Iceland

1994–1996 Anders Wenström, Sweden

1990–1994 Jostein Osnes, Norway

1987–1989 Gerhard af Schultén, Finland

1982–1987 Ilkka-Christian Björklund, Finland

1977–1982 Gudmund Saxrud, Norway

1973–1977 Helge Seip, Norway

1971–1973 Emil Vindestmo, Norway

## Rules of procedure and guidelines

[Rules of procedure for the Nordic Council](#)

[Guidelines for representation at Nordic Council committees](#)

[Open access rules](#)

Contact information

[Flemming Gade Kjerschow](#)

[flekje@norden.org](mailto:flekje@norden.org)

+45 60 39 06 14

[Nordic Council](#)

[The Nordic parliaments working together.](#)

?

How can we help you?

[Nordic Council prizes](#)

- [Nordic Council prizes](#)
- [The Nordic Council Environment Prize](#)
- [The Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize](#)
- [Nordic Council Literature Prize](#)
- [The Nordic Council Film Prize](#)
- [Nordic Council Music Prize](#)
- [Members of the Nordic Council](#)
- [Nordic Council cases](#)
  - [Organisations](#)
    - [Organisations](#)
    - [Committees](#)
    - [Party groups](#)
    - [National Delegations](#)
    - [Programme for the Presidency](#)
    - [The Nordic Council Secretariat](#)
    - [Nordic Youth Council \(UNR\)](#)
- [Meetings and protocols](#)
  - [Nordic Council's sessions](#)
    - [Nordic Council's sessions](#)
    - [Nordic Council Theme Session 2024](#)
    - [Nordic Council Session 2023](#)
    - [Nordic Council Theme Session 2023](#)
    - [Nordic Council Session 2022](#)
    - [Nordic Council Theme Session 2022](#)
    - [Nordic Council Session 2021](#)

[More](#)

## Related content

[22.01.20 | Information](#)

### [About the Nordic Council Presidium](#)

[27.06.18 | Information](#)

### [About the Nordic Council committees](#)

[19.07.18 | Information](#)

### [About the party groups](#)

[19.07.18 | Information](#)

### [About the national delegations](#)

[20.02.20 | Information](#)

### [About the Sessions of the Nordic Council](#)

< >

## Agenda

- [News](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Apply for funding](#)
- [About funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers](#)

## Insight

- [Data protection policy \(for GDPR\)](#)
- [Accessibility Statement](#)
- [Design manual](#)

## Organisation

- [Nordic Council of Ministers](#)
- [Nordic Council](#)
- [Info Norden](#)
- [Organisations](#)

## Follow Nordic co-operation

- [Facebook](#)
- [Linkedin](#)
- [Twitter](#)

The Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers | Nordens Hus | Ved Stranden 18, 1061 Copenhagen K, Denmark | [Contact information](#) | [About this website](#) | [Upplýsingar á føroyskum](#)